UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.105/C.1/WG.6/L.8
22 February 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Thirtieth session
Working Group of the Whole

DRAFT REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE TO EVALUATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE ON THE WORK OF ITS SEVENTH SESSION

Text submitted by the Group of 77 for consideration by the Working Group of the Whole

1. The Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) was re-established for its seventh session by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/67 of 14 December 1992, paragraph 10, with a view to improving the execution of activities relating to international cooperation, particularly those included in the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, and to proposing concrete steps to increase such cooperation as well as to make it more efficient. The Working Group held a series of meetings from 18 to ... February 1993, during the thirtieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. At its meeting on ... February 1993, the Working Group adopted the present report.

2. Mr. Muhammed Nasim Shah (Pakistan) was elected Chairman of the Working Group. The Chairman, in his opening statement, reviewed the mandate of the Working Group for its seventh session and the status of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82.

3. In accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 47/67, the Working Group of the Whole continued its assessment of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82. The Working Group had before it a number of studies and reports prepared by the Secretariat, Member States and international organizations, contained in documents A/AC.105/523, A/AC.105/533, A/AC.105/535, A/AC.105/536, A/AC.105/539, A/AC.105/540 and A/AC.105/541.

/...

93-09840 (E) 230293 230293

4. The Working Group noted with satisfaction the valuable efforts of the United Nations, Member States and other international organizations to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE 82.

5. Bearing in mind that many of the UNISPACE 82 recommendations had not yet been fully implemented, the Working Group agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations, keeping in view the priorities contained in paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 47/67.

I. SHORT-TERM TRAINING AND LONG-TERM EDUCATION

6. The Working Group noted that training courses in remote sensing, satellite communications and other topics have been organized in developing countries with the assistance of the United Nations. Such seminars and workshops on advanced applications of space science and technology and on new technological developments should continue to be organized regularly. At the same time, the recent advances in space technologies and applications for development should be brought to the attention of planners, administrators and decision-makers in the developing countries. Member States, particularly the developed countries, and international organizations are requested to support the training programme on an ongoing basis.

7. The Working Group recommended that the emphasis of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should remain on long-term, project-oriented, on-the-job training in space technology as well as in specific applications areas, with emphasis on new developments in satellite systems, software for remote sensing, use of digital processing systems and training in the management and operation of ground stations. In order to facilitate the development of indigenous research-and-development capabilities by the developing countries, the number of trainees from each country should be sufficient to create a national core group of experts. The Working Group noted with appreciation the offers of fellowships for long-term training made by some Member States and international organizations and urged other Member States and international organizations to make similar offers. The Working Group noted with concern that although UNISPACE 82 had recommended that at least 100 fellowships be available each year, the actual number of fellowships available has been far below that target and is currently less than 20 per cent of it. The Working Group urged the Office for Outer Space Affairs to make every effort to arrange for an increase in the number of fellowships and to encourage full utilization of the available fellowships.

8. The Working Group encouraged Member States to introduce or to improve space science, technology and applications curricula in their existing universities and institutions at appropriate levels.

II. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

9. The Working Group noted with appreciation the efforts being made by the United Nations towards the establishment in developing countries of regional centres for space science and technology education linked to institutions with space-related programmes, as described in the updated project document

(A/AC.105/534). The Working Group noted that a number of countries in each region had offered to host the proposed centres, that a mission to evaluate potential host institutions had taken place in one region and that evaluation missions in other regions were planned. The Working Group considered that the process for selecting the host countries should take into account the need to ensure the long-term viability of the centres and the need for the participation and support of other countries in the region concerned. Bearing in mind the recommendations of UNISPACE 82, the Working Group urged the United Nations to continue its efforts to arrange funding and other support from the developed countries as well as from international organizations for the establishment and operation of the centres.

10. The Working Group recommended that in the light of the continued development of space activities, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should request all States, particularly those with major space or space-related capabilities, to continue to inform the Secretary-General annually, as appropriate, about those space activities that were or could be the subject of greater international cooperation, with particular emphasis on the needs of the developing countries.

11. Similarly, the Committee should also request international organizations with space-related activities to continue to inform the Secretary-General annually concerning those space activities that were or could be the subject of greater international cooperation, with particular emphasis on the needs of the developing countries.

12. Extensive cooperation should be encouraged among countries within each region through sharing their human resources, technical expertise, hardware and software for space-related projects. If a country or countries within a region find it beyond their resources to undertake a programme by themselves, the United Nations should, upon request, endeavour to cooperate with them towards establishing a regional programme addressing the needs of those countries. Both regional and interregional cooperation between developing countries with similar needs, experiences and problems should be encouraged.

13. Encouragement should be given to governmental as well as non-governmental organizations which could help integrate regional and interregional efforts by means of conferences, publications and other activities, including symposia and meetings devoted to special topics, in order to facilitate and coordinate the space activities of scientific organizations. The United Nations should strengthen its cooperation with such organizations as part of its commitment to assisting developing countries to attain the benefits of space technology, including its spin-offs. Efforts should also be made by the United Nations to seek the cooperation of other international and regional bodies specializing in space activities.

14. Countries with relevant capabilities are once again encouraged to provide to the developing countries financial and technical assistance for developing low-cost community receivers for communication satellites and low-cost, preferably renewable, power sources to operate such receivers in unelectrified locations.

15. The Working Group noted with appreciation the reports prepared by the Office for Outer Space Affairs on the resources and technological capabilities of States in space activities as well as in the areas of education, training, research and fellowship opportunities for the promotion of cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. Those reports should continue to be periodically updated by the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

16. Given the investments already made on the ground by many countries in the form of ground stations, processing equipment, data banks, software, etc., for remote-sensing data reception and analysis, satellite-operating States are urged to ensure the availability of data on a continued basis and in a form compatible with the current systems.

III. INFORMATION, STUDIES AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES

17. The Working Group appreciated the preparation by the Secretariat of a number of studies and reports on space science, technology and applications as requested by the Working Group at its previous sessions. The Working Group recommended that some additional studies should be carried out to demonstrate the potentials of space technologies, with particular emphasis on the most recent advances in space technology and applications. Further studies might include the following:

(a) Use of low-Earth-orbiting satellites for communications;

(b) Forest resources management;

(c) Space applications for sustainable development;

(d) Satellite-based radio broadcasting services.

18. In order to promote the development of national space programmes, including higher education in space-related subjects, the United Nations should continue to arrange, upon request, for the provision of expert consultants from developed and developing countries to assist in the preparation of integrated national plans of action for initiating, strengthening or reorienting appropriate space applications programmes, which should be in conformity with other national development programmes. The Working Group noted with appreciation the efforts of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in the preparation of a list of experts in space technology and applications, on the basis of information provided by Member States and their national space authorities, to facilitate the exchange of consultants at the international level. That list should be periodically updated and circulated to the Member States.

IV. OTHER MATTERS

19. The Working Group considered that the following areas should be given priority in further efforts to promote the applications of space science and technology for development:

(a) Stimulation of the growth of indigenous nuclei and an autonomous technological base in space technology in developing countries. UNISPACE 82 had recommended the free exchange of scientific and technological information and an arrangement for the transfer of technologies to promote the use and development of space technology in the developing countries. UNISPACE 82 had also recommended that countries should not place undue restrictions on the sale of components, sub-systems or systems required for space applications. A greater international understanding therefore needs to be evolved to overcome the difficulties faced by the developing countries in this respect;

(b) Promotion of greater exchange of actual experiences in space applications. UNISPACE 82 had recommended appropriate assistance and had called particularly upon international financial agencies to support demonstration projects to provide opportunities for hands-on experience in space technology and applications for the developing nations through direct involvement in such applications projects or pilot projects;

(c) United Nations funding. The Working Group regretfully noted that the budgetary allocations for the Programme on Space Applications for implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82 have been meagre and inadequate in the past years and expressed its deep concern that the situation remains the same for the current year as well. The Working Group noted that in response to its recommendation and that of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the issue at their previous sessions, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had requested the General Assembly to make an adequate budget allocation for the Programme on Space Applications in order to fully implement the recommendations of UNISPACE 82. The Working Group further noted that that request had been accepted by the Special Political Committee of the General Assembly, communicated to the Fifth (Budgetary) Committee and noted by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/219 of 23 December 1992. The Working Group reaffirmed its view that the Programme on Space Applications should be given the full support of the United Nations in order to fully implement the recommendations of UNISPACE 82. This recommendation is made on the understanding that the Office for Outer Space Affairs will give priority to the full implementation of the Programme on Space Applications within the available resources of its regular budget;

(d) Voluntary contributions. The Working Group expressed its appreciation for the support from Member States and international organizations in the form of cash and in-kind contributions for the activities being undertaken by the Programme on Space Applications for the implementation of the UNISPACE 82 recommendations. The Working Group requested those Member States and international organizations to continue their support and urged other Member States and international organizations to provide cash and in-kind contributions for Programme activities.

20. Considering the benefits that have accrued as a result of UNISPACE 82, and noting that there have been considerable advances and changes in space technology and applications since 1982, as well as many changes in the geopolitical and economic situations affecting space programmes around the globe, the Working Group considered it important that a third UNISPACE conference be convened in the near future. Noting that the General Assembly, in paragraph 20 of resolution 47/67, had recommended that Member States of the

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space might discuss the possibility of holding such a conference, the Working Group recommended that it could serve as a Preparatory Committee for that conference to formulate details such as objectives and goals, venue, time and various other matters. The Working Group recommended that the conference be held in a developing country. Suggestions were made that the conference could be held in 1995.

21. The Working Group recommended that it be reconvened next year to continue its work.